

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action. Claims 1-29 are pending of which claims 1-4, 7, and 10-18 have been amended to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Amendments to claims 1-4 and 18 are fully supported at least by paragraphs [0025], [0026], and [0027], and Fig.3, Fig.4, and Fig.5. Claim 7 is supported additionally by paragraph [0030] and Fig.8. Amendments to claims 10-17 are made merely to clear up antecedent informalities. No new material has been introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-29 are respectfully requested. Additionally, please accept for consideration and allowance of new claims 30-33 which are fully supported at least by claims 1-4, and 7 of the originally filed application.

Present Status of the Application:

A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors.

Claims 1-4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,754,789 granted to Nowatzky et al. Claims 5-17 and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 5,754,789 granted to Nowatzky et al. in view of common knowledge in the art.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections:

1. Concerning title and specification

Please replace the current title of the application as indicated in the "Amendments to the Specification" section of this response. Acceptance and reconsideration of the new title is respectfully requested.

The Applicant has checked the specification and claims and currently has no knowledge of errors occurring in the specification and/or claims as published,

however reserves the right of correction should the Applicant become aware of any error.

2. Concerning 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

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Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to more specifically point out and claim the present invention and now includes the limitation of a single transformer module having at least one specifically claimed state of connectivity. The transformer module comprises first and second parallel ports and first and second serial ports. The claimed state electrically connects the first parallel port to the second parallel port while electrically disconnecting the first and the second serial ports. Independent claim 18 now has limitations of a serial/parallel data transformers, each comprising a serial and a parallel port, and a control unit for selecting between at least two possible connection states, two of which are clearly defined and claimed: a state electrically connecting the parallel ports while electrically disconnecting the serial ports and a state electrically connecting the serial ports.

Please note that both claims 1 and 18 include the limitation of a state in which the parallel ports of the transformer module are electrically connected while the serial ports of the transformer module are electrically disconnected.

20 The Applicant is unable to find teachings in any known prior art of electrically connecting the parallel ports of a single transformer module while disconnecting the serial ports of the module. Nowatzky et al. seems to teach that the parallel port is always connected to a serial port (Col.6, lines 20-23) of the same module and does not match the structure of the amended claims. One benefit of the present invention over that of Nowatzky et al. is the simplification of connections between two processors, which while not limiting, may be part of the same computer. It also allows integration of the transformer module into a single chip, while there would appear to be little motivation to attempt to put two of Nowatzky et al.'s module on a single chip when a serial cable still must be employed to connect the serial ports of the two

modules.

The Applicant believes that the present invention as currently claimed in claims 1 and 18 differs both functionally and structurally from any known prior art. Because the allowability of dependent claims ultimately depend upon the allowability of their respective base claim, if claims 1 and 18 are allowed, then claims 2-17, and 19-29 should also be allowed.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-29.

3. Concerning new claims

10 New claims 30-33 are based upon originally filed claims 1-4, and 7, in which the limitations of a second processor being connected to the second parallel port previously found in claim 4 have been combined with the limitations previously found in claim 1 to form new independent claim 30. No new material has been introduced.

15 In this Office action, the Examiner has rejected claim 4 stating that the reference inherently teaches the limitation of a second processor connected to the second parallel port. Upon reviewing the relevant text (Col.6, lines 42-54) describing Fig.4, the Applicant can only locate teachings of point to point connections connecting to serial ports and fails to understand how these teachings make it absolutely necessary for a second processor to be connected to a parallel port, the requirement of inherency.

20 25 Therefore, for this and other reasons, the Applicant believes that the cited prior art does not fully meet the limitations of new claim 30. Because the allowability of dependent claims 31-33 ultimately depends upon the allowability of claim 30, it is believed that claims 31-33 also should be allowable and respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 30-33.

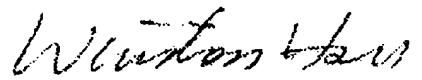
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that claims 1-33 are in proper

condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Sincerely yours,



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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)

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